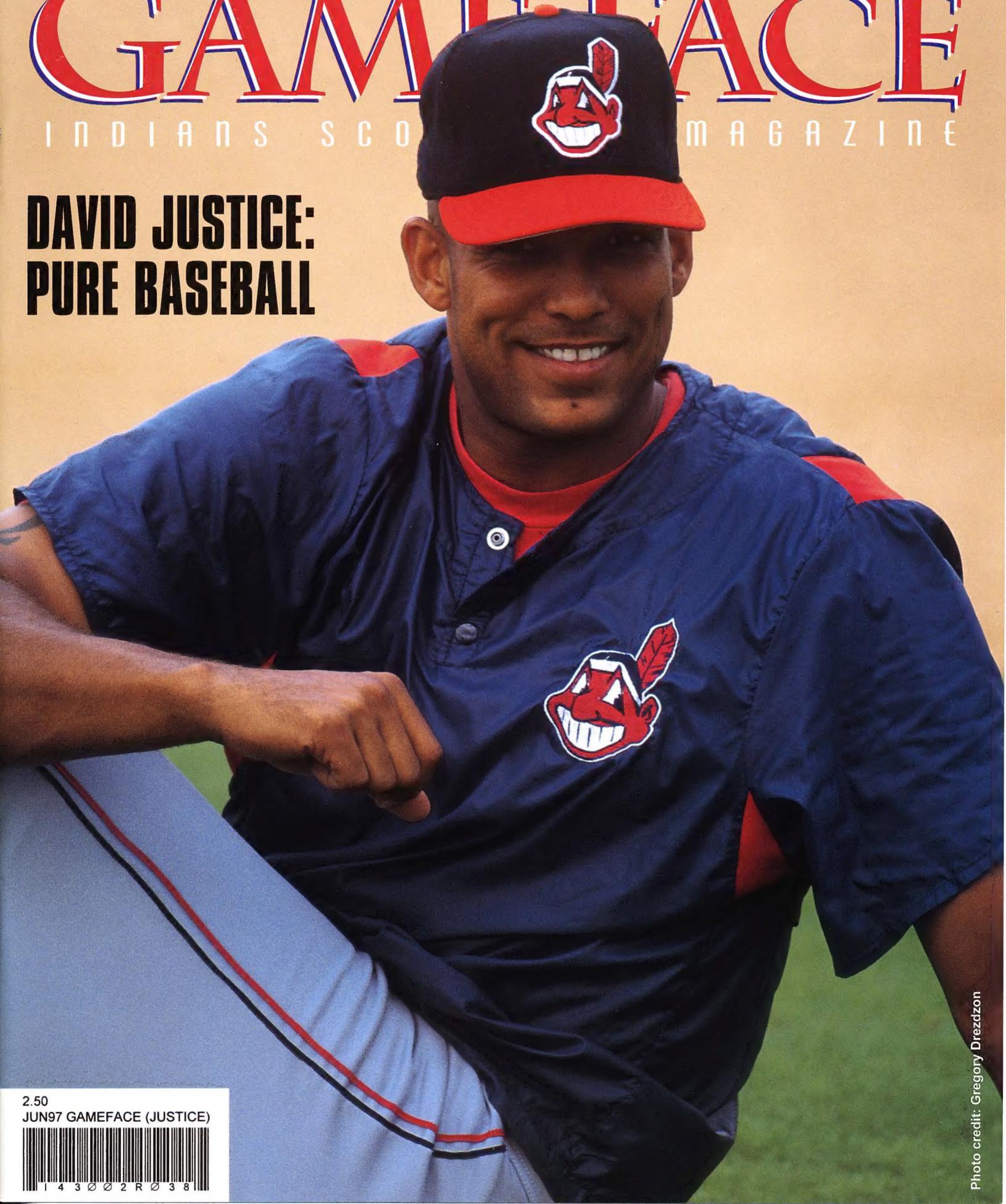


# GAMEFACE

INDIANS SCOTT MAGAZINE

## DAVID JUSTICE: PURE BASEBALL



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JUN97 GAMEFACE (JUSTICE)



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Photo credit: Gregory Drezdzon

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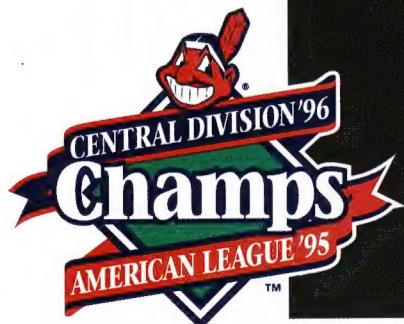


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzon



## 36 Pure Baseball...

by Jim Ingraham David Justice. Just saying the name brings to mind the crack of the bat, the roar of the crowd, and the sweet smell of success. He's a baseball player, first and foremost. It's his job. And he takes it very seriously. David Justice IS pure baseball.

## 46 Favorite Son: Cleveland's Own George Uhle

by Jack De Vries *The third in a historical series of Tribe greats.* Many Indians fans may never have heard of George Uhle, or as many called him, "The Bull," but his legacy is worth looking into. He was a man not only admired for his athleticism, but for his mind—known as the smartest pitcher of his time. He was also an Indians fan, far beyond the days when he worked the mound for the Cleveland Indians.

## 54 Tony Fernandez: Ready For Action

by Steve Herrick Tony Fernandez is making second base at Jacobs Field his home. He has been putting his versatility, both on the field and at the plate, into practice since making it to the Major Leagues. No doubt he's determined to play a key role in the Indians race for the pennant this season.

## 88 The ROAR Of The Crowd

by Russell Schneider *This summer, Major League Baseball's 68th All-Star Game will be played in Cleveland for a record fifth time! This series honors those past All-Star Games that brought the stars to the North Coast.* The All-Star Game in 1963 was played in Cleveland in the hopes to spur interest among Cleveland fans. The National League came out on top, with a stellar performance by San Francisco's Willie Mays.

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# THE FINE POINTS

by Curtis Danburg

The 1997 season has marked the celebration of the "Barrier Breakers" as Major League Baseball pays tribute to the 50th Anniversary of Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby breaking the color barrier in the Majors.

And as we enter the month of June, Major League Baseball is on the verge of breaking another barrier. The advent of Interleague Play will allow American and National League teams to meet during the regular season for the first time. Baseball purists are hesitant, but Major League Baseball intends to make a trial run this year. Each team will battle clubs from opposing leagues in a three-game series. This will bring the Cincinnati Reds and Chicago Cubs to Jacobs Field and send our beloved Indians to Houston, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis.

"If this is the direction the game must take for baseball to grow, then I'm all for it," said Charles Nagy. "It's going to be good for the fans because it will encourage new team rivalries like the White Sox vs. the Cubs, us against the Reds, and the Yankees against the Mets."

Tribe Third Baseman Matt Williams agrees. "It'll give fans a chance to see guys they usually don't get to see."

One of the most intriguing aspects of this new innovation is that when each team visits the opposing leagues' park, they will have to adapt to the rules of that particular league. In the case of the American League, this will mean that pitchers will get to swing some lumber around. American Leaguers who used to play in the Senior Circuit, such as Orel Hershiser, will have an advantage in that respect.

"I haven't had a bat in my hand since we got in shape for the '95 World Series," said Hershiser.

The Indians have already begun to gear up for the Interleague matchups which will commence on Monday, June 16, when the Battle of Ohio will pit the Tribe against Cincinnati at Jacobs Field.

"We've started taking batting practice with Charlie Manuel," Hershiser explained. "The main thing I'm concentrating on is my bunting and the bunt slash, which means you square around to bunt. If they charge, you can slash it by them. Those are the most important things we're going to be called upon to do."

"We're trying to get the pitchers to move runners by sacrificing—bunting them over. Also, pitchers need to be able to at least handle the bat," said Indians Hitting Instructor Charlie Manuel. "Anything after that—any hit they get—will be a big plus."

"Expecting to go up there and hit isn't realistic. You can be a really great athlete and take all the batting practice in the world, and you're still not going to be able to hit an 88mph slider. To do that, you need many years of training," Hershiser said. "Taking batting practice is a lot of fun for us—we get a kick out of it and hopefully nobody will get hurt. We'll concentrate on not striking out and advancing the runners."

The biggest concern Manuel expressed about pitchers taking BP, and actually hitting in these games, is the

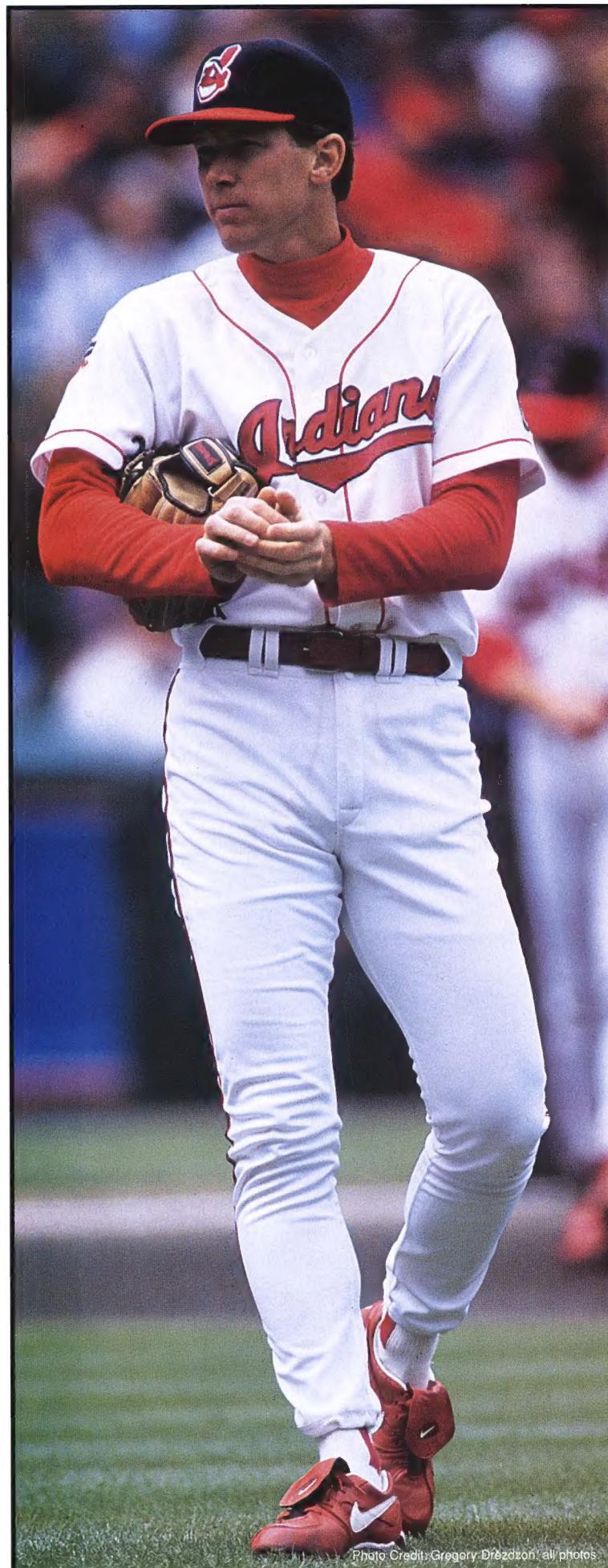
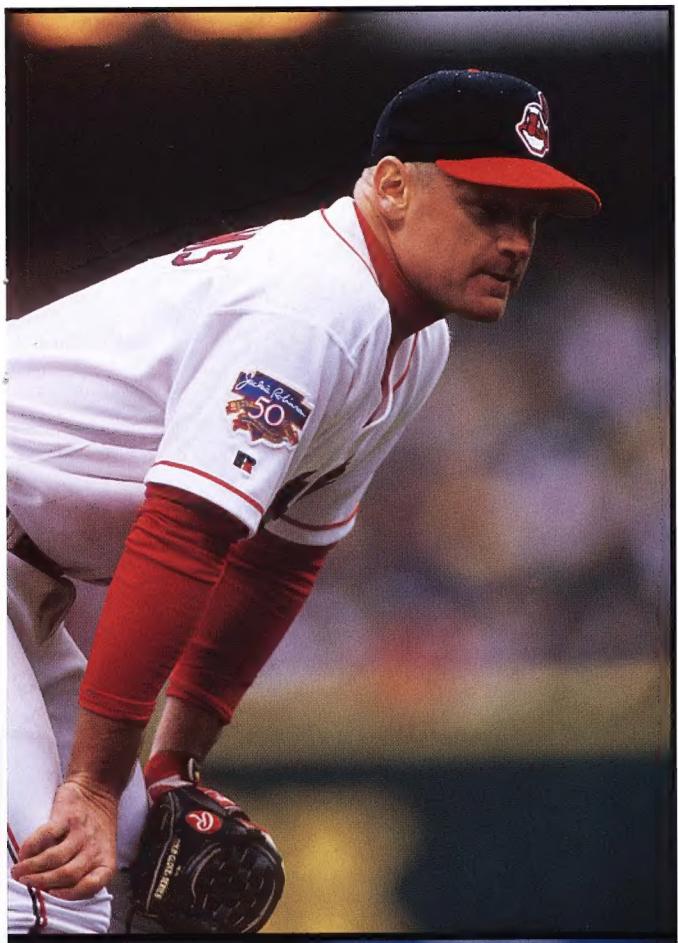


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzon; all photos



risk of injury to a key player. "The focus is on not getting hit by the ball. Any live practice we can do—hitting balls off of a machine that they can actually see—will help. It'll also give them practice at getting out of the way."

"Hitting should be fun and interesting," said Nagy. "Usually, you only get to hit in Spring Training and then you're called upon to bunt. Everybody always laughs and jokes about it. Now, it's going to actually mean something."

Interleague Play will showcase two entirely different ways to play the game of baseball.

"It's definitely a different game. I think NL pitchers are in for a surprise because AL lineups are a lot stronger than they're used to," Hershiser said. "Not to say that the league is any better, it's just a different kind of baseball. In the AL lineup you have lots of good hitters, and the game is based more on offense than on pitching. The NL game centers around pitching, defense, and speed. Over here it's 'boppers.'"

Another difference is the way the game is called, which ultimately dictates the type of pitches that are thrown in certain situations.

"I think the NL strike zone is a little lower and wider, and NL umpires like to call balls close and off the corners more. In watching highlights on ESPN and clips on hitting in the NL, especially home runs and extra-base hits, I've noticed that they throw a lot more fastballs, so those are things we need to concentrate on," said Manuel.

Williams explained, "The main difference is when the fastballs are thrown. You don't necessarily get a 2-0 or 3-1 fastball over here (in the AL)."

"Part of our program in the AL is the DH, who is a big hitter in our lineup. Any time we have to take our DH out, we're going to lose offense. The NL is used to playing without a DH, so when we play in their park, they'll have an advantage," Manuel added.

Hershiser agrees. "AL pitchers that haven't experienced the NL game will have to learn how to work lineups. There are a lot of things going on over there, and knowing the opposing manager—knowing how that game works—I feel the NL has a huge advantage. We'll see how the records pan out. Maybe there is a talent difference, so the strategy might not matter."

"On the other hand, guys who have played their whole careers mainly in one league, are unfamiliar with the other," Williams added. "It'll be even on both sides because it will be a feel-out experience this year in the limited games we'll play."

However, according to some players and coaches, there are drawbacks. "I think it takes away from the mystique of the World Series. You might end up playing a team you've already played during the regular season," Williams stated.

Manuel agrees, but is going into it with an open mind. "The World Series is a big event, and I'd like to meet the NL team on the same basis, but we've never experienced Interleague Play. Later, I might tell you I like it," said Manuel.

Nagy feels the status of the World Series will not be diminished due to Interleague Play because, "We'll be playing so few games against the other league that we're not really going to get a benchmark on a team. Just because Atlanta took two out of three over the Yankees during the regular season, doesn't mean they'll do it in the World Series. The Post Season is time for guys to step it up a notch. It's more pressure with a lot of different things happening."

# WELCOME TO JACOB'S FIELD

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following "Ground Rules:"

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Back Yard; Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three Concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side

of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on Eagle Ave. side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club and Club Lounge have both smoking and non-smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Due to security concerns, hard-sided coolers/containers are not permitted. Soft-sided containers and coolers are permitted.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a hard-sided cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, guide dogs for persons with sight disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- Fans are permitted to bring and display banners, provided they do not interfere with the game, obstruct the view of fans, or carry obscene, political or commercial messages. Banners may be hung from the facing of the Upper Deck. Poles and sticks are strictly prohibited.

• Fans may bring small umbrellas into Jacobs Field as long as they do not interfere with other fans' enjoyment of the game. Large golf umbrellas are discouraged.

• Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.

• Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol under age) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.

• Persons using obscene or abusive language, or engaging in any other antisocial conduct offensive to those around them, will be asked by Indians personnel to cease this conduct. If the offensive conduct persists, those involved will be ejected from Jacobs Field.

• Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit the Indians Guest Service Center, located at Section 116 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our "Hosts" throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.

"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable," said Dennis Lehman, Indians Executive Vice President of Business.

"We believe these fan ground rules will ensure the intimate environment that we all seek."



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdzon

# JACOB'S FIELD



## WEEK-LONG SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Once again in 1997, the Cleveland Indians will give young athletes an opportunity to hone their baseball skills through week-long day camps. The Cleveland Indians Baseball Day Camps are three separate one-week programs offering boys and girls, ages 12 to 16, baseball skill development opportunities in an exciting setting. Locations are held in various areas of Northeast Ohio. The 1996 camps were held on the high school ball fields at Copley, Orange, and Rocky River, Ohio.

The Cleveland Indians Baseball Day Camps are highlighted by daily visits by the Tribe's Major League coaching staff. Each coach conducts a clinic on his specialty. Local college and high



school baseball coaches will also be on hand to provide expert instruction. Directed by former Indians Gold Glove outfielder and current Tribe broadcaster, Rick Manning, the camps also feature special visits by current Tribe players.

The Cleveland Indians Baseball Day Camps begin in June. For more detailed information on cost, dates, and locations, please call (216) 543-1131.

## INDIANS PARENT-CHILD CLINICS

For parents who want to spend a day of fun, excitement, and learning baseball with his or her child, the Cleveland Indians are offering three separate one-day parent-child clinics in 1997.

The Cleveland Indians Parent-Child Clinics are held at Jacobs Field beginning at 10:00am and ending at the conclusion of that day's game. There is no age limit nor specific athletic ability required. Admission is limited to 100 couples on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants receive instruction from Rick Manning and other members of the Indians coaching staff at Jacobs Field. During that time, the parent works with his or her child.

Clinic participants are served a light lunch. Following lunch, the participants take part in an autograph-photograph session with two Indians players. Afterwards, the participants get to observe batting practice and the day concludes with that evening's game. Game ticket is not included in the price of the clinic.

For information on dates, and cost of the clinics, call (216) 543-1131.

## JACOB'S FIELD TOURS

When it comes to popularity, Jacobs Field Tours rank only second to attending an actual game at the Indians state-of-

the-art baseball facility. In 1996, more than 32,000 visitors took advantage of the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at Jacobs Field. Tours provide a unique view of the Ballpark from the Home Dugout, a Party Suite, and the Press Box. Visitors also see a special video of the restricted areas, such as the home club-



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdzon

house. For the general public, tours are conducted from May to September, Monday through Saturday (excluding holidays, day games, and special events) and select Sundays during the summer months. Tickets may be purchased at the Indians Main Box Office, Indians Team Shops, and at area Ticketmaster Ticket Centers beginning in April.

Advance purchase is suggested. Call (216) 420-4400 for more information.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THESE, OR ANY OTHER INDIANS COMMUNITY RELATIONS EFFORT IN NORTHEAST OHIO, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLEVELAND INDIANS COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AT (216) 420-4400.



# MINOR LEAGUE OPERATIONS/SCOUTING



Photo credit: Gregory Drezdzon, all photos

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Dan O'Dowd ..... Director of Baseball Operations/  
Assistant GM  
Lee MacPhail ..... Director of Scouting  
Mark Shapiro ..... Director, Minor League Operations  
Wendy Hoppel ..... Administrator, Player Personnel

## MINOR LEAGUE OPERATIONS

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Boyd Coffie. .... Minor League Field Coordinator  
Mike Brown. .... Pitching Coordinator  
Brian Graham. .... Defensive Coordinator  
Harry Spilman. .... Instructor  
Gordie MacKenzie. .... Instructor  
Ted Kubiak. .... Instructor  
Dr. Charles A. Maher. .... Instructor/Sport Psychologist  
Trent Clark. .... Minor League Strength  
and Conditioning Coach

## SCOUTING

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Jerry Jordan. .... East Coast Supervisor  
Bob Mayer. .... Midwest Supervisor  
Bill Schmidt. .... National Crosschecker

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Doug Baker ..... Southern CA, Southern NV  
Keith Boeck ..... AZ, NM, CO, UT, El Paso, TX  
Ted Brzenk. .... IA, Northern IL,  
Western IN, MN, ND, SD, WI  
Paul Cogan ..... Northern CA, Northern NV  
Phil Cook ..... Eastern IN, MI, OH  
Jay Franklin ..... Southern IL, KS, MO, NE  
Jim Gabella ..... Northern FL  
Rene Gayo ..... LA, Southern TX  
Mark Germann ..... AL, GA  
Chris Jefts ..... Central CA  
Winston Llenas. .... Dominican Republic  
Guy Mader ..... CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT  
Kasey McKeon. .... NC, SC, VA  
Jim Moran ..... Southern FL, Puerto Rico  
Max Semler. .... KY, MS, TN  
Jim Stevenson. .... Northern TX, AR, OK,  
Ontario and Quebec, Canada  
Mike Toomey ..... DE, MD, NJ, PA, WV, D.C.  
  
Major League Scouts ..... Dan Carnevale,  
Dom Chiti, Tom Giordano,  
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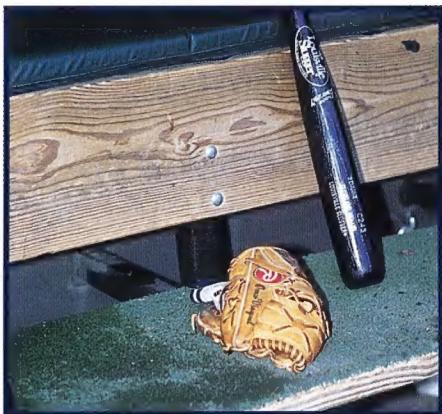
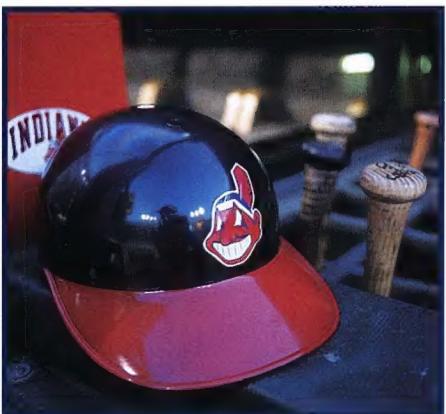


Photo credit: Gregory Drezdzon, all photos

# Pure Baseball...

**He's a blue-chip player acquired from a glamorous organization, with a statuesque stance from which he uncoils one of the most theatrical swings in the game.**

**But don't be fooled by the packaging.**

**Dave Justice IS pure baseball.**

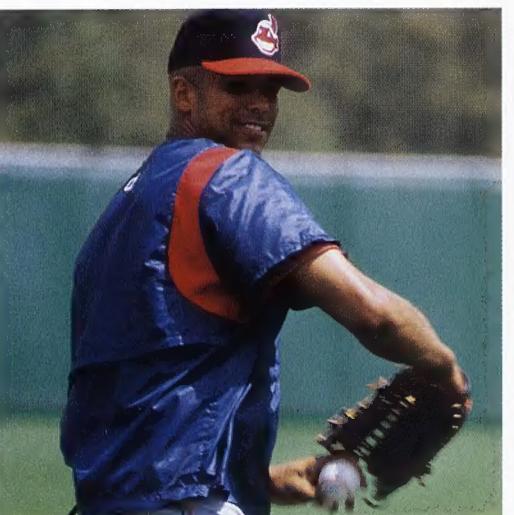


Photo credit: Gregory Drezdzon, all photos.

"The thing I admire most about David Justice," says Manager Mike Hargrove, "is that he busts his butt on every pitch. You don't see that in a lot of big-time players. He plays hard, and he expects the people around him to play hard. You never see David Justice half-step anything. More players in baseball need to be like Justice."

Justice is pure baseball. It's his job. It's what he does. And he takes it very seriously. That alone makes him distinctive.

There are a lot of baseball players today who make a lot of money.

But there are too few players who make big money, and also put up big numbers, and a big effort. But David Justice is one of them.

He's one of those players managers covet, not just for what they do, but for the way they do the things they do.

Boston Red Sox manager Jimy Williams knows it.

Prior to being hired by the Red Sox last winter, Williams was the third base coach for the Atlanta Braves, the only organization Justice played for until the franchise-rocking trade on March 25 that sent Justice and Marquis Grissom to Cleveland for Kenny Lofton and Alan Embree.

Williams, who as third base coach was the first man to congratulate Justice on his dramatic home run off Indians reliever Jim Poole in Game 6 of the 1995 World Series, says whatever Justice has accomplished in this game has not come by accident.

"He has a great work ethic," says Williams. "He was one of the most prepared players I've ever seen. You'd see him running in the runway from the clubhouse before the game, throwing a ball against the wall—he'd break a sweat even before he stepped onto the field. So if somebody hit one into the

gap on the first play of the game and he had to make a diving play, he was ready."

Indians hitting coach Charlie Manuel has seen that same work ethic in Justice since the day he was traded to the Tribe.

"David works hard every day," Manuel said. "He stays in his routine. He talks hitting all the time. And he expects himself to be a good hitter."

David Christopher Justice has always been able to hit. Being healthy enough to hit has been the hard part. For most of his career, he has been plagued by a string of injuries that has limited him to just one 500 at-bat season since he reached the big leagues for good in 1990,—when he was voted NL "Rookie of the Year."

But when he's played, he's hit. And when he's hit, he's impressed people. Particularly in 1993, his one injury-free 500 at-bat season, when he belted 40 home runs, with 106 RBI, was the starting right fielder for the National League in the All-Star game, and finished third in the voting for the NL's Most Valuable Player award.

"If I play, if I stay healthy, I'll put up the numbers," Justice says.

He did right from the start. A native of Cincinnati, Justice was a high school All-American basketball player at Covington Latin High School in Kentucky. He went to Thomas More College in Kentucky primarily to play basketball, but also played baseball. The Braves selected him in the fourth round of the 1985 June Amateur Draft.

After five years in the Minor Leagues, he was knocking on the big league door, and the Braves saw him as the heir apparent to two-time MVP Dale Murphy in right field.

By 1990 Justice was ready.

Almost.

Early in what would be his rookie year in Atlanta, he was



**David Justice is pure baseball.  
It's his job.  
It's what he does.  
And he takes it very seriously.  
That alone makes him distinctive.**

sliding into home plate and was hit in the face by a thrown ball. The result: a broken nose and shattered cheekbone. That delayed the start of his season until mid-May. But once he got into the lineup, he was there to stay.

Justice played so well that on August 4, the Braves traded Murphy to the Phillies. That trade allowed Justice to move from first base to right field, where he would become a fixture in the Braves lineup for the next six years.

Immediately after the Murphy trade, Justice went on a home run binge, belting 11 homers in August and nine in September, including one August stretch in which he homered 10 times in 12 games.

"The thing that impresses me most about David," says Manuel, "is how good he is at putting the ball in play. It's almost like he can go to left field whenever he wants to. That's good, because whenever he goes into a slump he should be able to come out of it quick."

Justice finished the 1990 season hitting .282, with 28 homers and 78 RBI in 439 at-bats, becoming the first Braves player to win the "Rookie of the Year" award since Bob Horner in 1978.

It was in that first year in Atlanta that Justice first started to show an ability that is rare for a left-handed hitter: being able to hit left-handed pitching. Indians fans got a painful and dramatic example of how well Justice hits lefthanders in Game 6 of the 1995 World Series, when Justice broke hearts in Cleveland with his solo home run in the sixth inning off Poole, which was the difference in Atlanta's 1-0 victory over the Indians in the final game of the Series.

"The thing I remember most about that home run is that it gave us the lead," said Justice. "I thought we'd score more runs that game. But that will always be one of my best moments in baseball."

Justice hit .321 vs. left-handed hitters last year. His career average vs. lefthanders is nearly .300, higher even than his career average vs. righthanders.

Justice credits his ability to hit lefthanders to his childhood.

"When I was a kid, one of my best friends threw left-handed, and we used to play one-on-one in the backyard, pitching to each other," he said.

Manuel says Justice's ability to hit lefthanders is legitimate.

"He stays in real well against lefties," Manuel said. "He doesn't give an inch, and he follows the breaking ball well."



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzon

Having a lefthander in the middle of the lineup who isn't bothered by lefthanders is a big plus for any manager.

"It makes my job a lot easier," Hargrove says. "Because you don't have to move David down in the lineup vs. lefthanders. He still gives good protection to (cleanup hitter) Matt Williams."

Following his rookie year, Justice started getting bit by the injury bug.

In 1991, it was a stress fracture in his back that caused him to spend a month on the disabled list. In '92, the same injury resulted in a two-week stay on the DL.

In 1993, he avoided injury and had what is to this point his career year, hitting 40 homers with 106 RBI while hitting .270.

He was on his way to another outstanding year in '94. He was selected to the National League All-Star team for the second straight year, and was hitting .313 when the season ended prematurely.

In 1995, he spent two weeks on the disabled list with a bruised nerve in his right shoulder, suffered while diving for a ball in the outfield. Then last year he was felled by the most serious injury of his career, a dislocated shoulder which occurred when he swung at a



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzon

pitch on May 15. The injury was related to the one suffered the year before.

The injury eventually required shoulder reconstruction surgery, which was performed on May 23, ending Justice's season after just 40 games, during which he hit .321.

Because of the injury Justice did not appear in last year's Braves World Series loss to the Yankees.

"You always want to play because you never know how many World Series you're going to get an opportunity to play in," said Justice, who has appeared in 19 World Series games for the Braves in 1991, '92, and '95.

Justice refuses to bemoan all his lost time due to injuries.

"I don't think about it that much," he says. "All I know is that when I play, I know I'll play well."

He came to training camp this year hoping to prove he was healthy, expecting to be the Braves' rightfielder once again.

There were rumors throughout the spring that Justice might be traded, clearing room for some younger outfielders in the same way Murphy was moved to clear a spot for the rookie Justice.

Then came March 25.

The trade shook both franchises, but Justice said he was glad to be coming to an organization that has been almost as successful in the American League in the '90s as the Braves have been in the National League.

"It's always good if you can get traded to a successful



PARK, DINE, PLAY. THE  
TAKE THE AVENUE



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzon

move even more difficult is that he didn't have a full training camp to get adjusted to the new position. The trade between the Indians and Braves came in the last week of training camp, meaning Justice had to learn his new position on the fly.

"David's done well out there," Hargrove said. "He's made several plays that we haven't seen made in left field in a long time."

**"We're seeing every day how good he is as a hitter. He's healthy now. And when he's up at the plate, he's always a threat. We're talking about a 30-plus homer guy."** —Dave Nelson

Justice admits he is probably going to be learning the nuances of his new position throughout this season.

"It's been tough moving to left field," he admits. "The big thing is learning to judge the fly balls. The ball comes off the bat at different angles in left field than it does in right field."

Nelson, who is also the Indians outfield coach, says he's very pleased with Justice's progress as a leftfielder.

"I think he can be an All-Star leftfielder," Nelson said. "He has everything you want from a guy out there. A strong arm, and he tracks the ball well. He's also such a good athlete that the more he plays left field the better he'll get."

Of course, the biggest asset that Justice has as a leftfielder is that booming bat.

**"We're seeing every day how good he is as a hitter,"** Nelson said. "He's healthy now. And when he's up at the plate, he's always a threat. We're talking about a 30-plus homer guy."

That's a raw number, but with Justice it fits. Because he's pure baseball.

## Three Great Ways to Enjoy Gateway!

(besides going to the game)



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# Tony Fernandez: Ready For Action



by Steve Herrick

Tony Fernandez came to Cleveland with an impressive list of credentials.

At the beginning of 1997, he was the American League's career leader in fielding percentage among shortstops, was a four-time All-Star, won four Gold Gloves, and was a member of the World Champion 1993 Toronto Blue Jays during his 12-year Major League career.

Despite those accomplishments, Fernandez's career hit a major obstacle last season. He was slated to be the second baseman for the New York Yankees, but broke his right elbow while diving for a ground ball during a Spring Training game on March 26. The injury caused Fernandez to miss the entire season, which ended with the Yankees winning the World Series.

Fernandez worked hard to rehab the elbow. He had surgery three days after the injury and played in extended Spring Training in Florida in June.

Fernandez thought he was ready for action, but the Yankees thought differently.

"I was ready to play by the middle of the season," he said. "There was a difference of opinion between my doctor and the Yankees' doctors. Their doctors said I wasn't ready to play. I'm glad it's behind me."

Fernandez played winter ball in the Dominican Republic to prove he was healthy and, hopefully, attract a Major League team. He played in 10 games for the Licey Tigers. Winston Llenas, the Indians scout in the Dominican, watched Fernandez play. The Indians, in search of help at second base, were one of the teams that expressed an interest. On Llenas' recommendation, the Tribe signed Fernandez on December 26.

"They were talking to me before I started playing," he said. "There were a few scouts watching."

It's a move the Indians think will pay off.

"Tony is a quality Major Leaguer," said Indians Executive Vice President and GM John Hart. "He gives us versatility and solid veteran leadership."

Even though Fernandez missed the Yankees' drive to their championship, he thinks one good thing came from his season of inactivity.

"It was hard at the beginning, but if I look at it from another point of view, I got to spend some time with my family," he said. "That's something I hadn't been able to do for a long time."

The off-season brought another big moment for Fernandez. His wife, Clara, gave birth to the couple's first daughter, Jasmine. They also have three sons, Joel, Jonathan, and Abraham.

"We were blessed," he said. "We had been waiting

for a little daughter."

Not being able to play helped Fernandez gain a new appreciation for the game. That's why he was so happy to sign with the Indians.

"It's exciting for me to be here, period," he said. "It's a blessing for me to be able to play."

Fernandez, 34, wants to take advantage of the opportunity.

"I have to be patient," he said. "I know what I'm capable of doing. I just have to be patient and try to get healthier."

The Indians signed Fernandez to share second base with Julio Franco and fill in at short when Omar Vizquel needs to rest his right shoulder. Fernandez will fill whatever role the team asks him to.

"In my situation, my job is to do what I can and don't try to do too much," he said. "If I can stay healthy, the rest will take care of itself."

Fernandez enjoys playing alongside Vizquel, who also won four consecutive Gold Glove awards.

"He knows how to play the position," said Fernandez. "He makes the job easier for the second baseman. He has skills and is sure-handed. I know 90 percent of the time I'll get a good feed. That's what you're looking for."

Fernandez hasn't experienced any problems with the elbow.

"The elbow is OK, but the whole arm has to get some strength back," he said.

Unfortunately for Fernandez, he ran into more problems in Spring Training when he strained the rotator cuff in his left shoulder. The injury occurred after he tripped over first base after hitting a home run in the first exhibition game.

Playing with pain is something Fernandez is growing accustomed to. He also broke his right elbow and had surgery on his left knee in 1987, suffered a broken right cheekbone after being hit by a pitch in 1989, and broke his right thumb in 1991.

"Let's face it, there aren't too many veterans who are

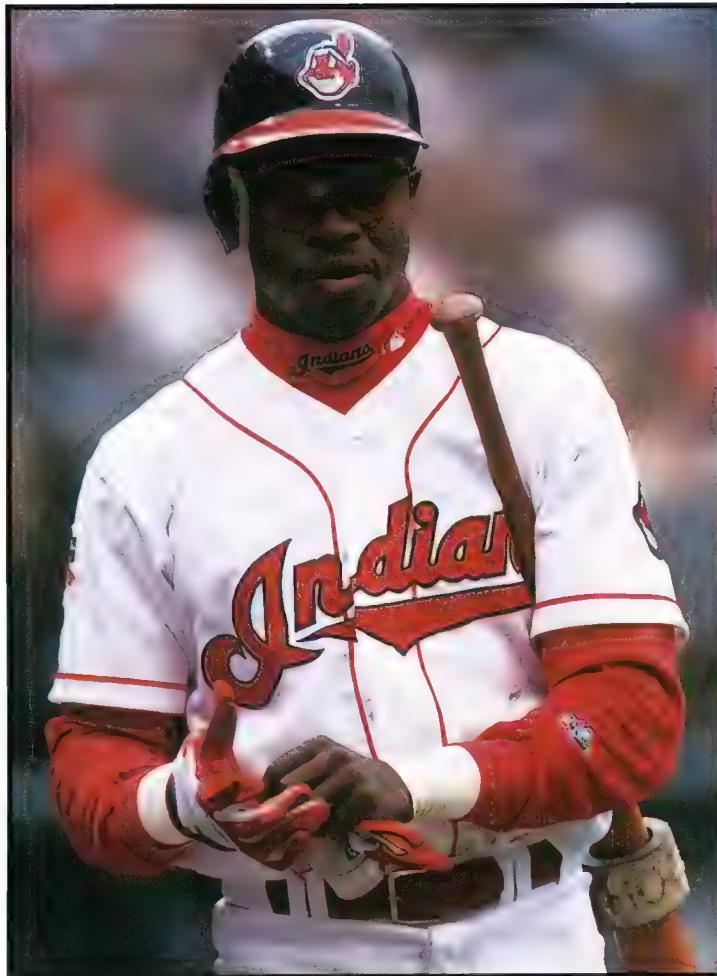


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzon

100 percent," he said. "I haven't been 100 percent the last five or six years. After awhile you get used to playing hurt. It's not a big deal."

Indians Manager Mike Hargrove has been impressed with Fernandez.

"Tony's a good ball-player," said Hargrove. "He swings the bat well from both sides of the plate, he's got good speed, and he can play short and second."

Fernandez, a native of the Dominican Republic, signed with Toronto in 1980 and was in the Majors by '83. Defense has been his strength throughout his career. He won four straight Gold Gloves at shortstop from 1986-'89, when he made

six errors in 741 total chances, while playing for Toronto. He also shares the Major League career record with Larry Bowa for the highest fielding percentage by a shortstop (.980) in 1,000 or more games.

Fernandez made the American League All-Star team in 1986, 1987, and 1989 while playing for the Blue Jays. He made the National League All-Star team while playing for San Diego in 1992.

Vizquel, who knows a thing or two about defense himself, is a big fan of Fernandez's.

"Tony is a very good defensive player," he said. "He's very smooth in the field. He was one of the best shortstops in the game when he played with Toronto. It's fun to play with him because he has a lot of experience and he knows his way around the bag."

Fernandez was also part of one of baseball's biggest trades when he and first baseman Fred McGriff were traded from the Blue Jays to the Padres for leftfielder Joe Carter and second baseman Roberto Alomar on December 5, 1990.

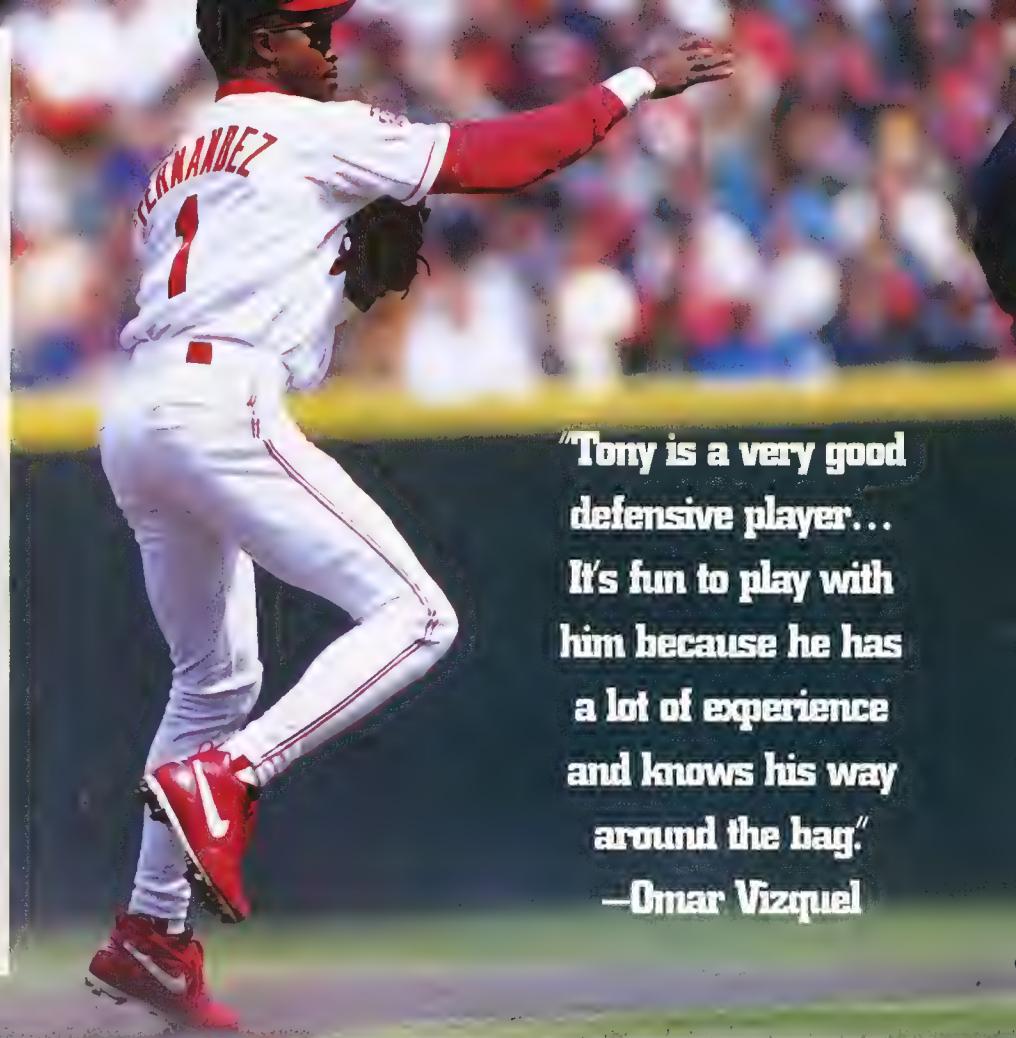
The Padres traded Fernandez to the New York Mets before the '93 season. He was then dealt back to the Blue Jays and hit .306 while playing solid defense

during Toronto's stretch drive to the American League East title. Fernandez then had a big post season. He batted .318 as Toronto beat the Chicago White Sox in the American League Championship Series. He then batted .333 and led the Blue Jays with nine RBI as they defeated Philadelphia in six games in the World Series.

Fernandez played with Cincinnati in 1994 and then signed with the Yankees before the '95 season. He went into this season with a .282 career BA and had 1,808 hits, which is close to another one of his career goals.

"I would like to reach 2,000 hits," he said. "When I came to the States I wanted to win a Gold Glove, make the All-Star team, and play in a World Series. When I was little, I wanted to win a batting title. I batted .365, but it was in winter ball."

Fernandez has posed problems for both right-handed and left-handed pitchers throughout his career. Going into this season, he was a career .287 hitter from the left side and a .271 hitter from the right side.



**"Tony is a very good defensive player... It's fun to play with him because he has a lot of experience and knows his way around the bag."**

**—Omar Vizquel**

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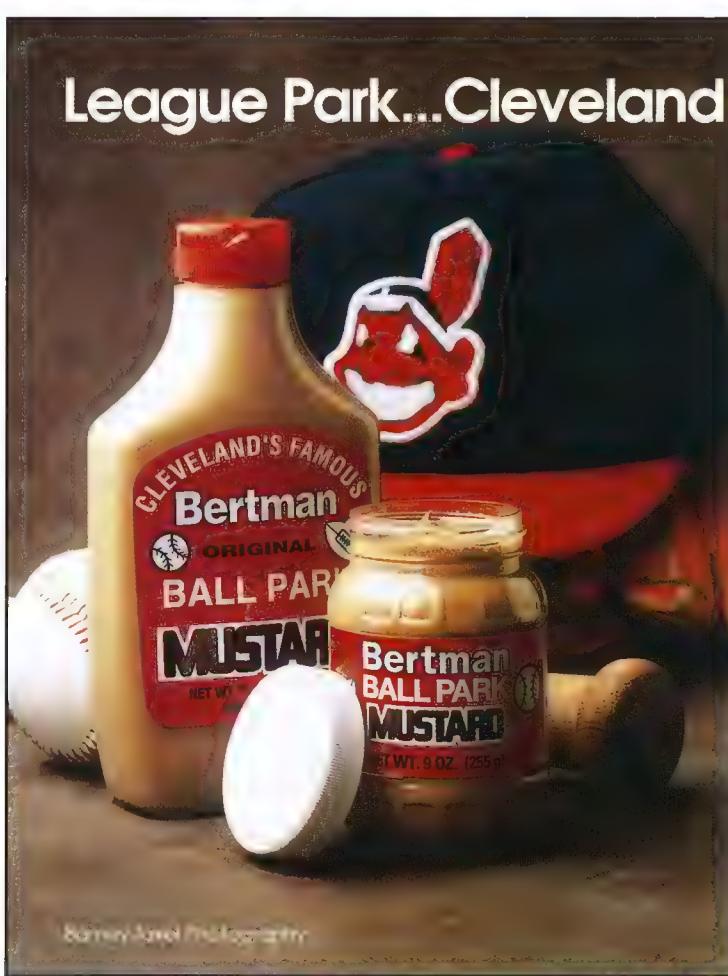
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Fernandez has played on plenty of good teams in his career. The Blue Jays won the AL East championship in 1985 and '89 and reached the World Series in 1993. The Yankees qualified for the playoffs as the AL wild card team in 1995. Fernandez thinks this year's Indians have the ability to rank with those teams.

"This team has great potential," he said. "It has all the tools, but we have to put it together. On paper everything can look good, but you have to put it into practice."

Fernandez has been putting his versatility both on the field and at the plate into practice since first making it to the Major Leagues. He could play a key role for the Indians as they try to put into practice a run at their third straight American League Central Division championship.



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdow

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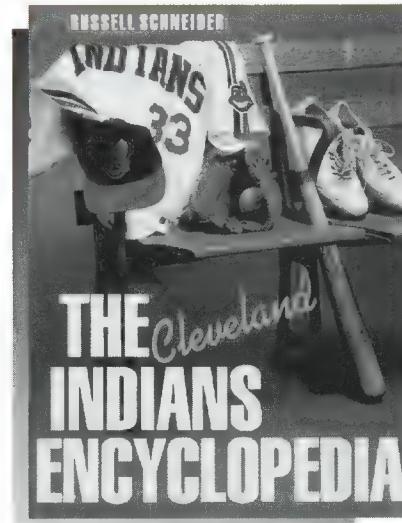
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# HOW TO SCORE

## HOW TO SCORE

Baseball fans can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the right-fielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

Team	Pos.	I	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	Walked and was forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop).
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on double by 3rd place hitter, scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.
1st Baseman	3	=	Doubled; did not advance further.
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	Flied out to center field scoring runner on third.
Designated Hitter	DH	K	Struck out—end of the inning.
Leftfielder	7	4-6	Singled; later forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).
Catcher	2	DP 4-6-3	Hit into double play (2nd baseman to shortstop to 1st baseman).
3rd Baseman	5	■■■	Hit home run.
Shortstop	6	7	Flied out to leftfielder—end of inning.
Pitcher	I		
TOTALS	R H	I I I 2	

## USE THESE SYMBOLS FOR PLAYS

- Single
- = Double
- ≡ Triple
- ≡ Home Run
- E Error
- F Foul Fly
- DP Double Play

- FC Fielder's Choice
- HP Hit by Pitcher
- WP Wild Pitch
- SB Stolen Base
- SH Sacrifice Hit
- SF Sacrifice Fly
- CS Caught Stealing

- PB Passed Ball
- BK Balk
- K Struck Out
- BB Base on Balls
- FO Forced Out
- IW Intentional Walk

## CAN YOU SCORE THIS PLAY?

The ball was hit to the shortstop, who threw it to the second baseman. The second baseman was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.

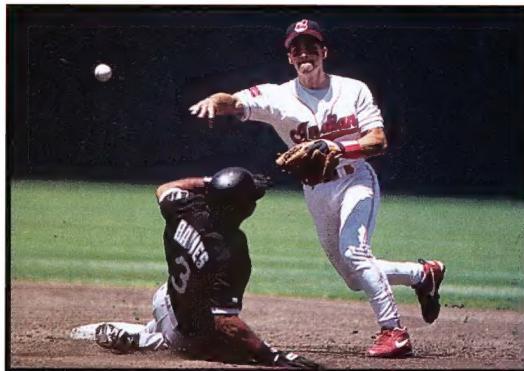
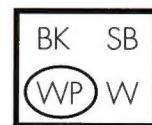


Photo credit: Gregory Dreidze



In this example, the hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on pitcher's balk, scored on a wild pitch.

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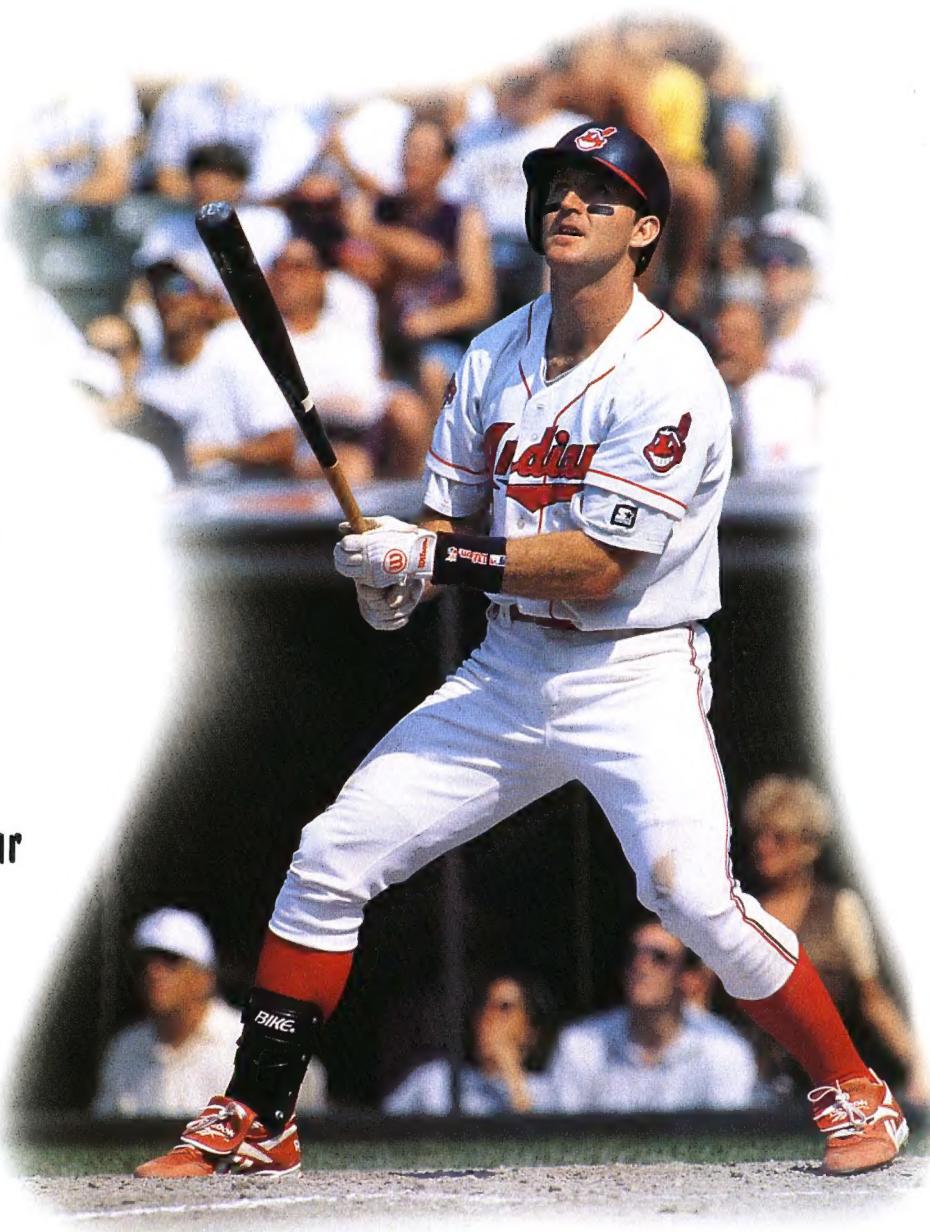


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzon

Indians Slugger Jim Thome spent three years in the Tribe's Minor League system before he put on an Indians uniform. But you just have to spend a few minutes at the Indians Team Shops, because here, you can get official Tribe jerseys and caps just like the players wear. You can also get T-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, baseballs, pennants, flags, videos, children's items, and novelties, too.

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# THE PLAYERS



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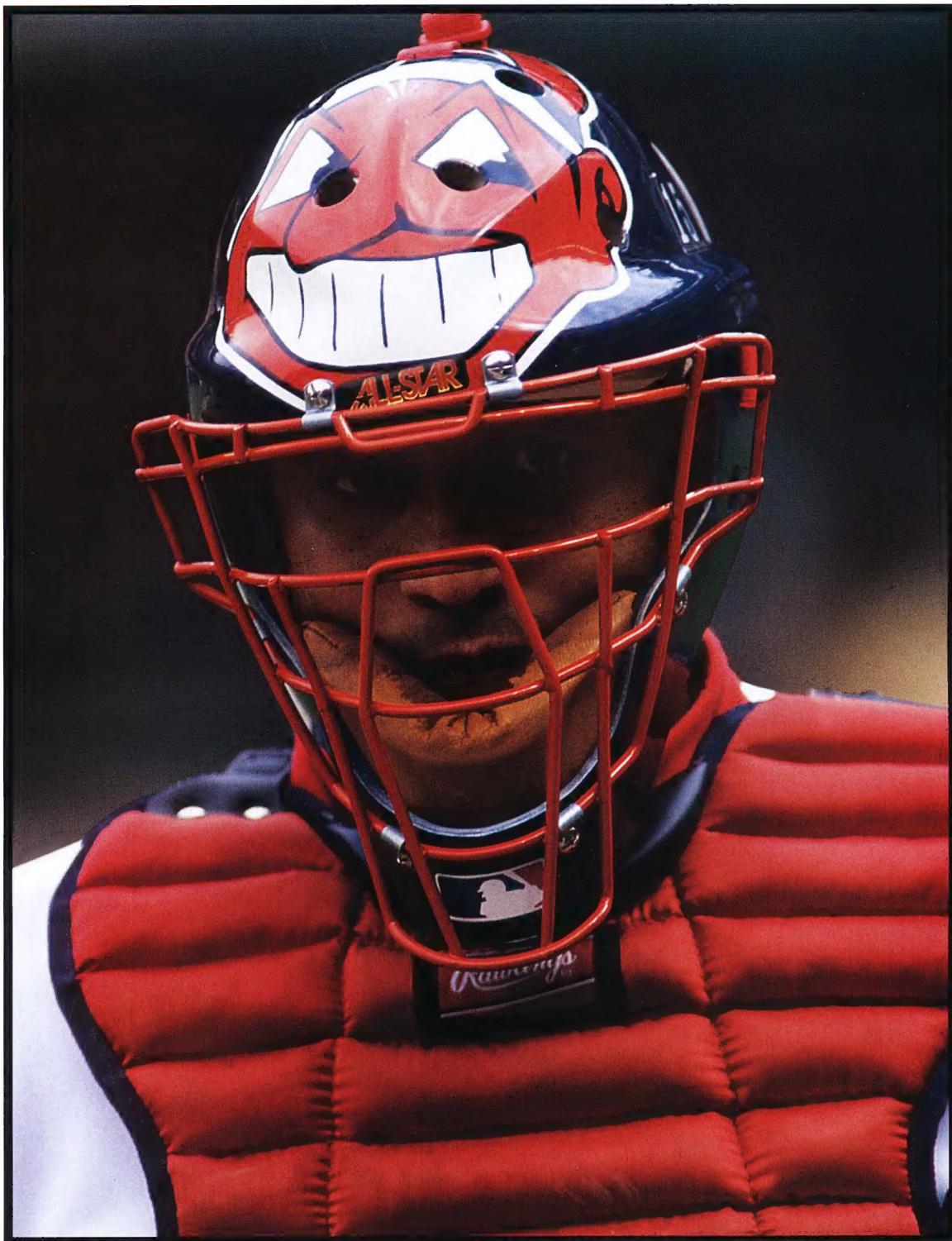


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**THE FACE BEHIND THE FACE!**